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# The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

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## He shoots, he scores!

Ty Collins scores the first goal of the Huskies game against the Lindsay Muskies on Jan. 21. See more photos on page 9. /TIM YANO Special to the Times

# Naloxone training key to ending the stigma

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

The concept of overdoses - particularly in a rural community - is often something that is pushed under the rug. Yet, while it

may seem foreign to some, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) continues to flag overdose alerts for the county, with the most recent being at the beginning of 2023.

"The recent increase in overdoses is troubling, so we're issuing the alert to inform

the community to take precautions," said Leslie McLaughlin, the Substances and Harm Reduction Coordinator with the HKPR District Health Unit.

In an attempt to counteract the spike in overdoses, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has started offering

free naloxone and anti-stigma training. "This type of training is needed everywhere and for everyone," said Kirstey Dams, community manager of the Chamber. "As a community, we need to come together and give everyone

see **OVERDOSES** page 2

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# The impossible dream; memories of Don Cameron

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

*To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
And to run where the brave dare not go*

These were the opening words for one of the first songs that aired publicly on Canoe FM in 2003; *The Impossible Dream*, selected by Canoe FM founding father, Don Cameron. A founder, a teddy bear, a major supporter of the Haliburton Highlands; those are some of the many terms used to describe Cameron, who passed away peacefully on Jan. 17 at the age of 88. "If it wasn't for Don Cameron, there would be no Canoe FM," said Dave Allen, the sales specialist at the station.

In 2002, a hyper-local radio station in the Haliburton Highlands was nothing more than a dream. "There were a lot of naysayers," said Greg Roe, host of *It's Only Rock and Roll* on Canoe FM. "It took a long time for us to be accepted in this community."

Despite the red-tape and backlash from the town, three strong-minded mavericks powered through to follow the dream; Dave Sovereign, Jack Hewitt, and Don Cameron. "It was really the perfect combination," recalled Roe. "Dave taught broadcasting for years, Jack was the business guy, and Don, well, Don, was the hands-on, 'let's do it' kind of guy."

Cameron became a Haliburton Highlands full-time resident in 1988, after he and his wife, Joan, spent many summers cottaging on Redstone Lake. He was not only heavily involved in the radio station, but also the curling club, Haliburton Legion Branch 129, and local activities such as swimming, fishing, and playing music.

Despite settling into the highlands for his retirement, Cameron would often spend seven days a week at the radio station. "He would do everything, he had his hands in every single part of the radio," said Roxanne Casey, the station manager at Canoe. During the early days, the technology of the radio was slightly more unpredictable than it is now, yet this never deterred Cameron. "I know for a fact that if our signal went down at 3 a.m., Don would be driving up to the tower in Eagle Lake to fix it, that's just who he was," said Roe.

Roxanne Casey shared that she met Cameron in 2003, when she first set foot in Canoe to record a commercial for a previous job she held. "I remember going to speak to Don



Don Cameron was one of the founding fathers of Canoe FM, and establishing it in the Haliburton Highlands. Cameron passed away on Jan. 17 at the age of 88. /Photo from Canoe FM

while I was at the studio, and just saying how great the whole set-up was," she said, "shortly after, he called me and asked me if I wanted to do my own show. I was so nervous, I didn't know what I was doing, but I remember him saying to me very clearly, 'you can do this.'" Casey went on to host the show *Women, Weeds, and Wisdom* for many years before she became the station manager.

Dave Allen has been with Canoe FM for 20 years in October. "Without Don, I know for a fact I wouldn't be in the area," he reflected, after sharing that he moved to the Haliburton Highlands in 2002, in an attempt to leave the hustle and bustle of the GTA behind. Allen and Cameron became friends after Cameron offered him a job at the station. "I was working in a cottage care job, and I was covered in mud when I went into the interview because it happened so quick. When Don offered me the job, he said 'you can have the job, but do you have any other clothes?'" Allen chuckled.

He reflected that many decisions that played into the role he now has in the community are a result of the consideration and kindness shown to him from Cameron; including his job, where he lives, and his friendships in the place he now calls home. "I was lucky to know him, and honoured to call him a real friend," Allen said.

When asked about Cameron's impact on the community, Casey, Allen, and Roe all said the same thing: a passion for the Haliburton Highlands, and a heart in Canoe FM. "He really believed this could happen," said Roe, "and he made it happen." In the public statement Canoe FM issued in light of Cameron's passing, they said, "Canoe FM would not be the station it is without the hard work, dedication and love of Don Cameron."

Don Cameron dreamed the impossible dream, and the Haliburton Highlands are all the brighter because of it.

## Overdoses can impact anyone, at any time

from page 1

the tools to recognize and overdose and know how to deal with it."

Naloxone is a type of drug that once administered, temporarily counteracts the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids such as fentanyl, morphine, codeine, and heroin (often taken for severe pain) affect specific receptors in the brain. When naloxone is administered, it removes the opioids off the brain receptors, and binds them together instead. The effects of naloxone only last 20-90 minutes though, so it is important to contact 911 for additional support.

The Chamber has partnered with the John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton to present this formal training. The 2-hour session includes details about what an overdose can look like, how a naloxone kit can help, and educates attendees about the truth of substance use. "There are many myths or untruths about substance use that we see in the media, and this training does an excellent job of dispelling those," said Dams. Each participant leaves the training with their own naloxone kit, and the knowledge for how to use it if necessary.

The first training was held on Jan. 16 at the Chamber offices. It was well attended, and Dams would like to continue offering sessions on a bi-monthly basis around the county, with the next training session being held in March at the Minden Library.

Dams hopes that by offering consistent training around the community, the risks of overdose will diminish for the population. "Seeing and talking about harm reduction supplies and naloxone overdose kits makes them much less intimidating

and helps to bridge the gap that often exists between substance users and those who do not use substances," she told the *Times*.

Dams encourages everyone to take this training, as the reality of overdoses is that they can impact anyone, at any time. "It is not always the vulnerable population we see portrayed in movies," said Dams. "This is why we appeal to employers and business owners to take this training, as pillars of the community and individuals with influence, it is a great place to stop the stigma."

For more information on the training, follow the Chamber on Facebook and Instagram. If you or someone you know is using drugs that could result in an overdose, please consider the following points presented by the HKPR:

- Test a small amount of drug before you use.
- Never use alone. If you are alone, call the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) virtual safe consumption at 1-888-668-NORS (6677), or use a buddy system and call a friend.
- Call 911 in the event of an overdose.
- Avoid mixing your drugs.
- Keep a naloxone kit on hand. You can get a naloxone kit at most pharmacies and needle exchange sites, as well as training presented by the Chamber.

**The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton to offer free naloxone and anti-stigma training to staff and business owners in the area. /Photo submitted**





# AH supports effort to maintain Raven Lake access

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands council threw its support behind a pair of stakeholder groups getting a land use permit that will ensure Raven Lake facilities continue to be maintained.

The Lake of Bays township council will withdraw its half of the shared services agreement with Algonquin Highlands in April. The agreement is for the maintenance of the Raven Lake landing and parking lot off Highway 35 south of Dorset.

Algonquin Highlands council discussed during its Jan. 19 public meeting a letter received from the Raven Lake Cottagers' Association (RLCA) and the Raven Lake Dock Association (RLDA). In the missive, the groups explain how they're hoping Algonquin Highlands will be an active participant towards ensuring public access to the lake. Raven Lake residents share the landing on a regular and year-round basis with emergency services, utilities crews, government agencies, and community groups.

The shared services agreement has townships of Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands splitting capital costs at 50 per cent each.

The RLCA and the RLDA want to take up Lake of Bays end of the shared services deal.

The associations are interested in a permanent solution that will provide access to the 96 water access residents and the 171 lake residents who use the landing and parking lot to access the public boat ramp and docks and the private RLDA docks.

Chris Card, Algonquin Highlands' manager of park, recreation, and trails, said the agreement is to provide general maintenance to the lake's access point.

"That access point is on Crown land," Card said. "Lake of Bays has plowed and maintained the parking lot for a number of years. Then, under a shared services agreement, we maintain the docks and the boat launch and the retaining wall there."

Card said the Algonquin Highlands replaced the docks last year, after the town replaced the retaining wall in 2016.

Algonquin Highlands has its water trails access point in ad-

dition to the dock at the site in question.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said it's an unfortunate situation.

"It obviously is a sign that we need to have, fairly soon, some more discussion about our shared service agreement and how we're going to manage that," she said. "It would like to see us offer some support to this."

She said there's a level of responsibility to Algonquin Highlands residents who use the area and to ensure access to the waterway by emergency services.

"We want to make sure those people are served well," the mayor said.

Councillor Lisa Barry said she's all for municipal staff

reaching out to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to get the ball rolling towards an agreement with the stakeholder associations.

Coun. Sabrina Richards encouraged getting the process started.

"This is a great first step in moving towards a solution," Richards said.

Angie Bird, the town's chief administrative officer, said the infrastructure needs to be accessible by the public.

"The land use permit can't just be for Raven Lake residents," Bird said.



The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink is up and running at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre once again. If you are enjoying the rink and want to be featured in the *Times*, send your photos to [emily@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:emily@haliburtonpress.com). Photo from 2019. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

## The rink is ready to roll

The Township of Minden Hills is pleased to announce that the Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink is now open at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden ON.

This Outdoor Ice Rink is self-regulated, and participants will be required to adhere to the following Outdoor Rink safety rules and protocols:

- Recreational skating only
- No sports equipment is permitted i.e., no nets, sticks, pucks
- No gameplay is permitted i.e. no hockey

- CSA approved helmets are strongly recommended for all skaters
- Washrooms are closed
- The rink is unstaffed
- Hours of operations 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day
- Use at own risk

For more information, please visit the Township of Minden Hills website at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) for further updates on rink conditions.

*Submitted by the Township of Minden Hills*

[www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca)

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Come join our team! We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Director of Planning, Building and Bylaw
- Manager of Waste Facilities
- Building Inspector
- Parks Summer Students
- Cultural Centre Summer Students

Stay informed of current job postings by visiting our website at [mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/careers](http://mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/careers) for a list of available employment opportunities.

### FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

According to a waste audit conducted in the summer of 2022, 57% of Minden Hills garbage is food waste. And over 50% of that food waste is avoidable (leftovers, loaves of bread, expired meat, etc.). To help us improve, focus on meal planning, preparing only what you need and doing all you can to ensure foods that could be eaten are not wasted.

### WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

### NOTICE OF (VIRTUAL) REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2023, 9:00 AM

TAKE NOTICE that the Thursday, January 26, 2023, Closed Session meeting has been moved forward on the agenda and will commence after Delegations. For more information or to view the agenda please visit [mindenhills.ca/council/](http://mindenhills.ca/council/).

### A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries. Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.

### (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 26 – Regular Council Meeting

February 2 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget

February 9 – Regular Council Meeting

February 16 – Special Council Meeting/Public Meeting – 2023 Budget

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [mindenhills.ca/council/](http://mindenhills.ca/council/) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at [mindenhills.ca/council/](http://mindenhills.ca/council/). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

### NOTICE – 2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence its 2023 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting scheduled on February 2, 2023. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2023 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023, during its Special Council Meeting regarding the Draft 2023 Budget. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 • [gbedard@mindenhills.ca](mailto:gbedard@mindenhills.ca)

### CULTURAL CENTRE UP-COMING EVENTS

Valentine's Candle-Making Workshop in partnership with Snuff Candle Co. at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Saturday, February 11 from 1-3 pm. All supplies included. Price is \$45 per person; pre-registration is required.

Visit the Agnes Jamieson Gallery this winter to view a selection of artwork from our permanent collection featuring renowned artist André Lapine. The Gallery is currently open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

Attention all crafters! Join the UnFinished Objects Craft Group (UFOs) at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre the third Friday of every month from 1-3 pm to work on your neglected projects. Bring a snack and your project. First meeting of 2023 takes place this Friday, January 20.

For more information or to register please call 705-286-3763 x 542 or email [culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca](mailto:culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca). The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden.



# AH renews waste management contract

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Algonquin Highlands will continue its relationship with its waste services contractor for another year.

During its public meeting Jan. 19, the township renewed its contract with Watson General Contracting and agreed to some

reality.

The extension to the waste management landfill services will be per the terms of the 2019 contract, but with an increased hourly rate of about \$23. The current contract will expire at the end of March.

The current hourly rate is \$21.73. The hourly rate increase of \$1.35 will mean a budget increase of about \$10,000 for contracted services based on 2022 operating

The contract also includes \$27 per hour, plus taxes, for labour to complete material handling and maintenance work not otherwise included in the site attendant and site maintenance services contract.

Additional site attendant services will be required with 2023 changes in operations at the Maple Lake Waste Management Site. A new weigh scale creates a need to train staff and site patrons, and requires a full-time employee throughout the summer.

This will allow a dedicated attendant at the scale house, a gate attendant, and site staff for the waste receiving areas.

Total financial impact for consideration in the 2023 budget is projected to be \$39,775.

Melissa Murray, environmental manager, said some of the increase is due to a rise in such costs as minimum wage, various operating costs, and changes to insurance and fuel costs.

"We've been in discussion with the contractor as far as providing some additional services that aren't included in the current contract," she said. "We've seen an opportunity where they may be able to help out with some service needs that we can't meet within the township."

Those service needs include specialized labour, materials separation, and other site services.

"So therein lies the need for two different hourly rates," said Mayor Liz Danielsen, referring to the \$23 hourly rate for contracted services and the \$27 hourly rate for work outside the contract.

Waste Management Site hours of operation have remained unchanged for many years. Revisions to operating hours for the Dorset Transfer Station in 2015 were the last significant change.

There's been significant changes in traffic patterns at landfill sites, likely due to changing demographics and shifts in property usage.

The traditional weekend cottager arriving Friday evening and departing Sunday evening is becoming less common. Site usage is being spread more evenly throughout the week as the number of permanent residents increase and seasonal property users have more flexibility with their time.

As such, staff conducted informal surveys of site users and site attendants have tracked traffic patterns over the past two years to identify high and low traffic periods.

Some of the changes suggested include how more consistency in operating hours may be helpful for site users. Changes to operating hours may be more beneficial to staff. There are underutilized hours at most sites during summer operations, particularly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

"This is a fairly substantial shift," said Murray. "And the thought behind that was if changes are needed, let's look at addressing all of our needs in one shot so people can get used to a new structure."

It was suggested the Oxtongue Lake site be closed on Mondays, with the exception of holiday Mondays where the site would be open 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said a traffic count isn't a perfect measure of change.

"I'm fearful of taking Monday away," she said.

At Oxtongue Lake, the difference between Monday traffic and the average traffic is about 5.8 cars.

"It's not a huge drop on Mondays," Dailloux said.

Danielsen said she tends to agree with Dailloux.

Murray said the site would still be open for holiday weekend Mondays during the summer. That's one Monday a month.

"Traffic on those days [holiday Mondays] is significantly higher than it is on the average Monday," Murray said.

Councillor Sabrina Richards broached the possibility of consulting the public on the landfill hours of operation.

Angie Bird, the township's CAO, said new landfill cards, which will include hours of operation, are set to be distributed to residents by way of property tax bills. The hours need to be established in order to print the cards.

Murray said the current hours of operation aren't ideal for everybody, and any new hours won't be ideal to everybody either.

"We're just trying to make the best we can to meet the needs of our community and to address some of the common concerns," Murray said.

In the end, council accepted the new hours for municipal landfill sites.

"If all hell breaks loose and the world does not like it, next year we can change it," Danielsen said.

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# A refresh in the theatrical world

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Make way for young adults in the community - they're about to take centre stage. Ctrl-ART-Del is a new theatre company that's sprung up in the Haliburton Highlands, with individuals between the ages of 18 to 40 at the forefront.

The company was spearheaded by Tim Nicholson and Amy Leis; two people who are no strangers to the stage themselves, but saw a gap in community theatre, not only in the highlands, but everywhere. "There is nothing specifically geared towards young people in theatre arts," said Nicholson, "and that's a niche that needs to be filled."

Nicholson recalled that he first developed the concept last summer, when he retired from his career in cabinet making. He said as he hung up his woodworking tools for the last time, he realized he had no one to pass the thirty years of knowledge on to. The thought of this lifetime of skills being lost made him stop to think. "That chapter closed," he said, "but theatre, theatre I realized I could still take the time to pass on."

Nicholson got his start on the stage during the early days of the Highlands Summer Festival (HSF), before he was hired as a guest artist at Canadore College. From there, he performed professionally across various parts of North Bay and Toronto, before growing "tired of living out of a suitcase" and returned to live and work in the Haliburton Highlands, with continued roles in HSF.

Leis had acted in the region for 10 years with HSF, during which time she was attending George Brown College to receive professional theatre training. She settled in Minden permanently during the pandemic. "I went to school in Toronto because I sort of had to, there's no way to study theatre in a smaller town," she said, "but this is my community here,

and I want to build something here so we can stay where we love."

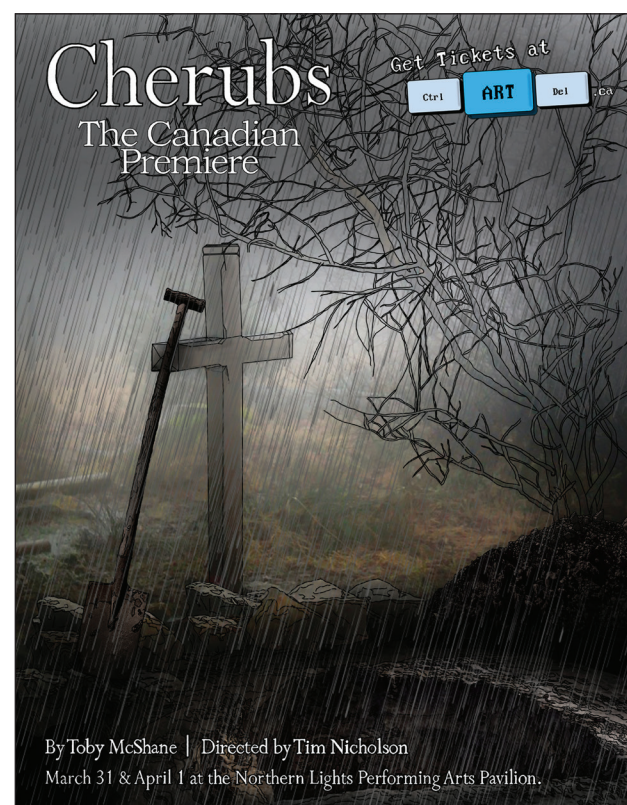
The concept for Ctrl-ART-Del is a refresh or restart for something new. Nicholson and Leis believe that this new company will offer an outlet for young professionals to take the reins for theatre in the area. They hope to invite young people of all skill-sets, levels, and interests to partake, with Nicholson and Leis providing participants with their own knowledge and experiences to assist in their theatrical journey and development.

The first show that they are presenting is titled *Cherubs*, which is excitedly making its Canadian debut on Haliburton soil. The play is described as a "black comedy," which Nicholson and Leis believe will attract younger audience members. "It's very Tarantino meets *Beetlejuice*, very dark, very funny," said Leis. The play has four young adults as the main actors, with Nicholson as the director.

While Nicholson has stepped into the directorial role for this performance, he said he will measure success by how soon he can walk away. "I want to be able to pass the information I have onto this group, and then I want them to run with it," he said. His vision is to have Ctrl-ART-Del continue to grow with young, eager actors, so that there is a place where they can feel supported, seen, and welcomed in the community.

"We have received great feedback on launching the company so far," said Leis. She believes that this is something that has been missing from the community for a long time, and the development of this opportunity for young professionals will be pivotal in attracting folks to the region.

*Cherubs* will be in the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on March 31 at 7:30 p.m., and April 1 at 2 p.m. For more information about Ctrl-ART-Del, visit [www.ctrlartdel.ca](http://www.ctrlartdel.ca) or visit their socials.



*Cherubs* will be making its Canadian debut in Haliburton this spring. This is the first play put on by Ctrl-ART-Del theatre company, and they hope the content will appeal to young people in the area. / PHOTO SUBMITTED



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# To the dreamers

**T**O DREAM the impossible dream. That was the theme of the newspaper this week. From celebrating the memories of Canoe FM founding father Don Cameron, to an aquatic rehabilitation facility opening up in Gelert, to a new theatre company that opens the doors for young people in the community, these were concepts that all started as nothing more than dreams.

It got me thinking: what would this town be without the dreamers? The folks who are repeatedly told “no.” The ones who tear through the red tape with the machetes of their minds. The ones who don’t give up.

The theme of the dreamer presents itself regularly in our day-to-day lives. From Disney’s *A dream is a wish your heart makes*, to Martin Luther King’s *I have a dream* speech, the concept of big dreams makes our world bright, hopeful, and optimistic. Yet, sometimes dreams are easier said than done.

I remember when Canoe FM started, 20 years ago. “There were a lot of naysayers,” said Greg Roe, a current host and a pioneer in the early days of development for the station.

I was one of those naysayers. I didn’t think it would take. Didn’t think the community would run with it. Didn’t understand the need.

20 years later, and I get it. Canoe FM is the spine that binds our little towns together. It is the heart of the highlands, the pulse of the population. Don Cameron saw a need for it in the community. He dreamed it would work, and it did.

Where would we be without the dreamers?

Quite simply, we would be stuck. We would be stagnant. And worst of all, we would be all too comfortable.

To have a dream is to push beyond the realms of relatable comfort. It is to break the barriers of basics. And it is not a quality that every person has; only the brave ones can dream.

I was lucky to have a series of interviews this week where the word “dream” emerged organically more than once. Yet, in juxtaposition of the freedom of dreams, many dreamers have been counteracted. There

have been challenges, consequences, and frustrations along the journey.

But the beauty of a dreamer is that they keep going, because the reason they had the dream in the first place, is because they care about it. If your heart

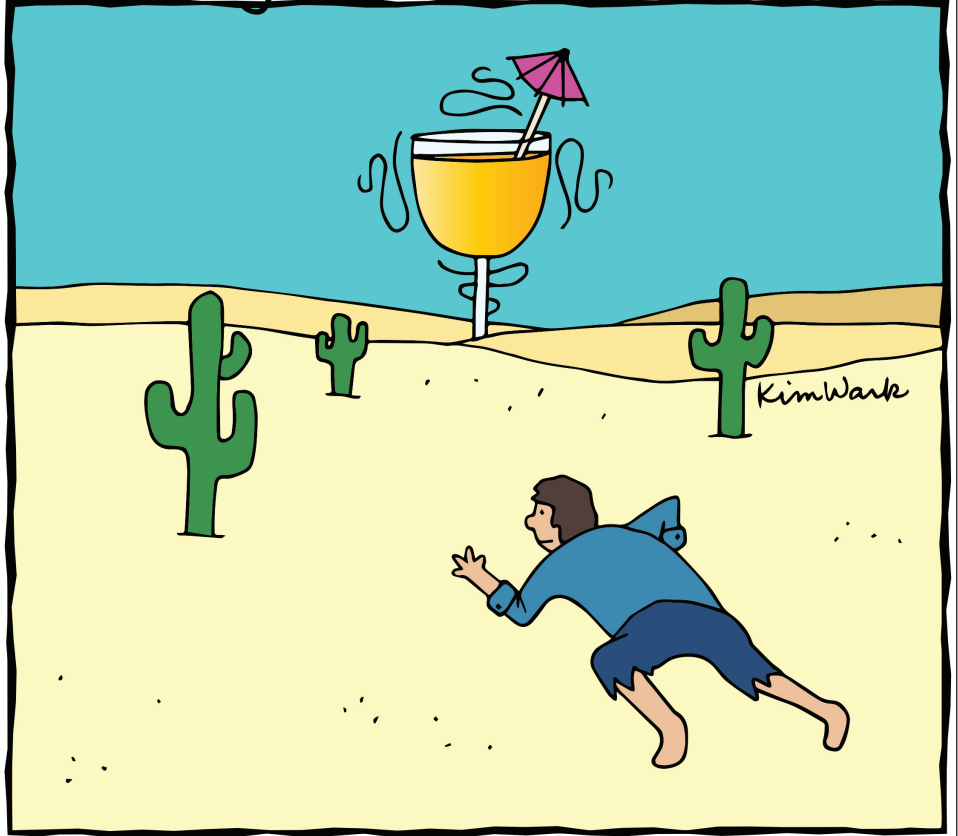
isn’t behind a dream, it’s no more than a fleeting thought. It’s the passion and power and soul that are embedded into the thought that allows for the metamorphosis from a passing idea, to a dream that can bloom.

So, here is to our village of dreamers. The ones who saw a need for something in our community, and ran with it. The ones who pushed through the barriers, and opened up a world of wonder. The ones who make our time on this planet a little bit brighter. The ones who dream the impossible dreams, for all of us.



**EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

# Kwarky



Dry January

# You know the drill

**I**F YOU ARE wondering why this winter is as mild as it is and why the ice on our lakes has taken so long to thicken, look no further than me. You see, last year I bought myself a gas-powered auger for ice fishing.

Was it required? I thought so.

You see, I have gone through all my years of ice fishing using a hand auger. But last year I turned 60 and I figured it was high time for me to get a power auger so I wouldn’t have to expend a whole week’s worth of energy drilling one hole through 20 inches of late season ice.

How was I supposed to know that this would trigger a reverse Ice Age?

Obviously, there is no science to validate this or explain it. But nevertheless, it appears to be true. Ever since I bought that auger, I have had no need for it. In almost all cases, the ice I was over could have easily been drilled through with a hand auger – even by a man of my advanced laziness.

This phenomenon is something that routinely occurs with people who buy snow blowers. I have at least three friends who have bought snow blowers over the last few years and now are wondering why. But, as far as I can tell, my observations are the first that make a connection between buying a new power auger and the lack of ice.

I was out the other week ice fishing for the first time this year. So, I took my power auger along thinking that I would finally have real use for it. It turned out

we were over the thickness of ice a hand auger eats up. And a hand auger always works and weighs very little too.

On the other hand, my power auger could be used as a weight in an Olympic-level deadlift event. Also, it requires 75 pulls to start and a 5-minute wait after I flood it, which it turns out is one of my God-given talents.

But forget all that. The real disappointment is after you start it and then start drilling and milliseconds later realize

that you are through the ice. It’s hardly fun at all. Heck, my power auger is so effective at eliminating ice that I am thinking of placing my frozen turkey beside it next Thanksgiving.

I have begun to wonder why I bought one at all. But I also know deep down that if I did not have one I would be drilling with a hand auger through 47 inches of hard ice

next time I went out. If I have learned anything in my 60 years, it is this.

It is one of those darned if you do, darned if you don’t situations. So, the real question is, how do you make it work for you? I have been thinking about this a lot lately and I have come up with a solution. The problem I feel is that most ice anglers might not like it.

I am thinking of buying an even bigger power auger, an underwater camera, a snowmobile, and a portable and permanent ice hut. I figure that’s all it will take to eliminate the lake ice completely and create enough open water for me to fish out of with my boat.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



## IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

# The age of the grandparent

There's been little to do during this winter's days of chilly grey overcast. So I've taken to thumbing through stacks of photo prints that have been gathering dust over many years, even decades.

I'm staring at a very interesting one: A snap of a curly-haired me in short pants standing in front of my parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

Four generations gathered together was unusual back then. Folks often didn't live long enough to be pictured with great grandchildren, or even grandchildren.

Sixty years ago the average Canadian could expect to live into their sixties, often not old enough to see their children's children, and almost certainly not their grandchildren's children.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

Seeing three and four generations together is more likely nowadays as Canadian life expectancies have climbed into the low eighties. Rising life expectancy combined with falling birth rates have created a steady rise in the ratio of grandparents to grandchildren.

A Finnish study shows that children born in 1860 shared on average four years of life with a grandmother and one year of life with a grandfather. A child born in 1950 shared an average 24 years of life with a grandmother and 13 years with a grandfather.

The Economist magazine reports that there now are 1.5 billion grandparents in the world compared with only half a billion in 1960. That means grandparents now make up 20 per cent of the world population compared with 17 per cent 60 years ago. It estimates there will be two billion grandparents by 2050, or 22 per cent of the population.

Canada, at the last estimate in 2017, had 7.5 million grandparents – 4.2 million grandmothers and 3.3 million grandfathers. Their average age in 2017 was 68, up from 65 in 1995.

So, we have entered the age of the grandparent. And, the rising ratio of grandparents to grandchildren is changing the way we live.

More working mothers - more single parents in general – have created gaps in the time parents can spend raising their children. More people living longer, healthier lives has meant more grandparents available to help fill the gaps.

Studies in the United Kingdom show that grandparents spend an average eight hours a week looking after grandchildren. Also, two-thirds of grandparents make financial contributions to their grandchildren's upbringing.

Other studies show that the increasing involvement of grandparents in child care is not restricted to the U.K. It is being seen across Europe, Asia and North America.

Babysitting is small part of the contributions that growing numbers of grandparents are bringing to society.

Grandparents are important teachers in today's complicated societies. They have many stories and experiences to share; stories that provide links to a child's family and cultural heritage.

Grandparents' stories help children understand who they are and where they come from. And, grandparents' experiences teach the upholding of traditions while passing along moral guidance.

Research at the University of Oxford has shown that children with a high level of grandparental involvement had fewer emotional and behavioural problems. Other studies have concluded that as many as nine out of 10 adult grandchildren feel their grandparents influenced their values and beliefs.

Grandchildren are more likely to listen to their grandparents more than their parents or other adults. That's probably because parents and other adults such as teachers have to set and enforce rules that children might not like.

Grandparents, who have little role as enforcers in children's lives, get to listen, sympathize and comfort. They also try help children understand the adults making and enforcing the rules.

Traditional grandparent thinking and roles are changing along with social and technological changes.

The American Association of Retired People (AARP) says its surveys show that one in 20 grandparents now prefer their grandchildren to call them by their first name. Also, today's grandparents are more accepting of grandchildren of a different race, ethnicity or sexualities.

A majority of grandparents surveyed by AARP said they would support a gay grandchild.

One thing that has not changed about grandparents over the centuries is an old Italian proverb that goes something like this:

"If nothing is going well, call your grandmother."



## Nature's Sculpture

Ian Kinross of Minden snapped this photo of a unique ice formation on brush found near Burnt River at Dahl Forest./ photo submitted



## Preparing for Pride in Minden

Minden Pride kicked off their 2023 planning at the first committee meeting of the year on Jan. 18. Topics discussed included planning for Pride Week, year-round social events, and the need for more committee members. If you are interested in getting involved, visit [www.mindenpride.ca](http://www.mindenpride.ca). Pride celebrations are scheduled for Aug. 21 to 27, 2023. Photo from 2022 Pride celebrations in Minden. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## HCPL's Book of the Week



Naomi, Melvin, Pedro, and Poppy are just a few of the twenty-one rambunctious, funny, and talented baby frogs who share their stories in the Cat Kid Comic Club. The book features four mini-comics that follow the whacky group on a series of outrageous adventures! By working together, the baby frogs discover that small things can have a huge impact. Collaborations is the fourth book in this series of graphic novels by bestselling children's author Dav Pilkey. Recommended for children aged 7-10.

Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations by Dav Pilkey is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library..



# Water therapy contributes to 'quality of life'

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Audrey Collins is making a splash in Gelert. Collins, an aquatic therapist originally from Quebec, has settled in the Haliburton Highlands, and is offering sessions at her pool for individuals suffering from the effect of strokes, neurological disorders, and accidents that result in chronic pain.

"It was now or never to put this dream into place," Collins told the *Times*, when alluding to her decision to build the pool on her property, "and the reward has been to see the quality of life come back to people."

Collins grew up in Quebec, but spent her summers attending Camp Kilcoo in Minden, in an effort to learn the English language. It was here that she met her husband, and fell in love with the area and the people. She grew up studying physical rehab therapy, but was always drawn to one-on-one lessons with people in aquatics.

Collins continued to hone in on her skills through a variety of courses, before being offered the opportunity to become internationally certified in aquatics therapy in Switzerland. "Those were long days, and it was an intense program, but once I was finished, I returned to Canada, and there are only two Canadians with this title," she said. On top of being an aquatic therapist, Collins is also a physiotherapist assistant, and a healing waters instructor.

The prestigious training and natural dedication to aquatic programming led Collins to a series of studies and positions with Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. Here, she



**Audrey Collins of Audrey's Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation has opened up a pool on her own property to assist individuals struggling with chronic pain, stroke recovery, and neurological disorders. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff**

was able to contribute her skills to the development of significant research in regards to spinal injuries, as well as the effects of water therapy on stroke victims.

She started offering one-on-one sessions to clients in the Peterborough and Lindsay areas, before COVID-19 hit, and the public pools were closed down. It was at this point in her journey that she and her husband decided to follow their dream of offering sessions right at their home. "It's a different type of medical attention," Collins said. "When clients arrive, they come to my home, I am in my bathing suit and so are they, we

can all feel vulnerable and human, and on the same level in treatment."

Collins reflected on the success she has found with this type of treatment on individuals. She shared with the *Times* that she had one client who had suffered a stroke many years ago, and was experiencing debilitating pain with movement. Collins invited the client's husband to join them in the pool, and showed him a series of safe exercises to help his wife in her healing journey. "At the end of the session, I asked them if they wanted to dance together," Collins said. "It was the first time they were able to stand face-

to-face since the stroke, and be able to see one another standing up. There were tears for everyone."

She shared that there are other clients she works with, who struggle with neurological disorders such as Parkinson's. "I have one client who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's for 5 years, yet he is showing no effects of the disease. His doctors believe it is because he's in the pool every week," she said. Collins also hopes to start working on some group therapy programs for individuals with chronic pain, as well as pre and post natal classes, and therapeutic aqua yoga, focusing on relaxation and balance.

Collins noted that the water is a unique environment, and believes that it levels the playing field in healing due to the freedom it offers. "It's the only place where some people can do certain things," she said. "When they can move freely again, and feel themselves again, they can see a light at the end of the tunnel in healing."

Audrey's Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation is partnered with Haliburton County Chiropractic and Rehabilitation, based in Minden. Together, they work with clients to offer a patient-centred approach to healthcare, and provide clients with support and techniques dedicated to feeling healthy, safe, and empowered.

"When you can offer people quality of life, to me, that's the real paycheck, seeing how people's lives can change," said Collins. You can find more information on the programs Collins offers at [www.haliburtoncountychiropractic.com](http://www.haliburtoncountychiropractic.com)

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Goaltender Aidan Spooner accepted an award for goaltender of the month, which honours a perfect month in hockey.



### A good old hockey game

Christian Stevens celebrates the last goal of the game, resulting in a 4-2 win over the Lindsay Muskies on Jan. 21. /PHOTO BY TIM YANO, special to the Times



Lucas Marshall slides towards the puck.



## Cupid's Carnival returns

Love is in the air this February at Abbey Gardens, as they prepare for their annual Cupid's Carnival on Feb. 11. "This is a great opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day with all the things you love about winter in Haliburton County," said Ashley McAllister, director of operations at Abbey Gardens.

The one-day event is shaping up to be jam-packed, with something for everyone who attends. "The goal is to create a winter carnival that is fun, interactive, and gets people outside," said McAllister.

The Abbey Gardens skating rink will be opened to visitors, but no rental skates or helmets are available for rental, so attendees are encouraged to come prepared. There will also be tobogganing, games such as archery, darts, and Zorb ball races, plus a pop-up shop from Algonquin Outfitters, featuring snowshoes, hiking gear, and small sleds.

If you're the type of person who hits up carnivals for the food (debatably the best part of any carnival) then Abbey Gardens is preparing a Love Potion Bar, with Valentine's Day cocktails and cinnamon heart white hot chocolate. There will also be cotton candy, cupcakes, waffles, popcorn, and pulled pork available that can be enjoyed around a hot bonfire onsite.

McAllister noted that the Cupid's Carnival held last year was a surprising hit, with over 500 attendees. "We weren't sure what to expect with it being our first year," she said, "but what we realized is that it was a time of year where people were really looking for things to do in the community. Ways to get out of the house, so we are so excited to be offering it again." McAllister said that she is grateful to be partnering with other great community businesses, and is very excited to welcome everyone to the grounds once again.

"Admission is by donation, but we would love it if people could register in advance online, because we want to make sure we have enough prizes and food and drinks for everyone," said McAllister. While admission is by donation, she noted that all proceeds from the event goes towards children's programming at Abbey Gardens.

Cupid's Carnival will run on Feb. 11 from 12 - 3 p.m. at Abbey Gardens. For more information and to register, visit [www.abbeygardens.ca/cupids carnival](http://www.abbeygardens.ca/cupids carnival)

A couple shares a smooch at last year's Cupid's Carnival at Abbey Gardens. This year, the popular event is scheduled for Feb. 11 from 12 - 3 p.m. /PHOTO SUBMITTED





# Thank You for Believing

**\$274,021**

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Predators on the prowl

Part of the wolf pack at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve basks in the sun during Yours Outdoors' new experience, the Predator Prowl. Guests were treated to an introduction to the wolves at the centre before being taken into the theatre to meet five birds from Royal Canadian Falconry. Owner of Royal Canadian Falconry Amy MacAlpine, a registered vet technician, and her family, moved to Haliburton in September of 2022 along with their beautiful birds of prey. This year, they hope to offer more workshops and meet and greets out of their new location. To learn more about Royal Canadian Falconry, visit [www.royalcanadianfalconry.com](http://www.royalcanadianfalconry.com). The new Yours Outdoors experience runs once a month, and more details can be found here: [www.yoursoutdoors.ca/packages/predator-prowl](http://www.yoursoutdoors.ca/packages/predator-prowl). Information about the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre can be found here: [www.haliburtonforest.com/things-to-do/wolf-centre](http://www.haliburtonforest.com/things-to-do/wolf-centre). /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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	3				2			9
6				8				
5	8			3		4		
2					7			
								6
							3	8
7			3	1		2		
8				9				
	5							6

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*Answers on page 14*



Valerie, who is half peregrine and half Gyrfalcon, eats her dinner while falconer Amy MacAlpine answers some questions from the crowd during Yours Outdoors' first Predator Prowl held at the Wolf Centre at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve on Saturday, Jan. 14.



A sweeping success

Matt Brown of Minden submitted photos of their annual community Broomball tournament, held on Jan. 21. "We had 21 people and two dogs come out for the event. Four teams were pitted against each other in a Bracket Tournament. The Whalers defeated the North Stars to take the 2023 Championship. Sandra, Mike, Blayne, Glenn and Jade are this years Winners. It was great night had by all! Games were filled with fierce competition with plenty of slips and falls. Thanks to all who came out!" /PHOTO SUBMITTED



# What's happening at Point in Time?

## Update on services and supports

We are continuing to offer mental health and counselling supports through a number of ways: in person at our offices or the Youth Hub, virtually via zoom or by phone. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and appointments are available as needed after hours as well.

We offer Quick Access Clinics where individuals or families can be seen quickly by calling 705-457-5345 or texting 705-854-0576 to set up an appointment.

We are open for crisis calls from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and work with another agency, 310 COPE, to provide after hours coverage. We work together to ensure there is around-the-clock crisis supports. For after hours crisis support, please call or text 310-COPE at 1-855-310-2673.

## Early Intervention update

Mother Goose and Infant Massage at the Early ON Centre is coming back soon! Check our website and Facebook page for updates.

## Kindergarten registration open

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has opened registration for Kindergarten. The Board offers both Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs, where our youngest students discover how to learn cooperatively with others. At this age, play is an important way of learning. As children play, they are learning about the world and how it works, about other people, and about themselves.

Parents/guardians of children who are turning four in 2023 are to visit the Kindergarten Registration page on tldsbc.ca to register. To find out which elementary school they will attend based on the home address, use the school locator.

When registering, have the following items ready:

- Proof of age for each child
- Name and phone number for family doctor
- Ontario Health Card number (optional)
- Child's immunization record
- Residence road name and 911 address

September may seem like a far way away, but it's important for TLDSB to know how many students are enrolled so that staffing and spaces for the upcoming school year can be made. TLDSB asks all parents/guardians to register their child(ren) by the end of February.

If you have further questions, contact your child(ren)'s local elementary school.

*Submitted by Trillium Lakelands District School Board*

We are continuing to support children and families with special needs through individualized supports. A child does not require a diagnosis to access Early Intervention services. You can contact Point in Time staff at (705) 457-5345 to book a Quick Access appointment.

## Youth Hub update

Staff continue to see youth face to face, by phone, in the community or via Zoom for scheduled appointments. Our nurse practitioner, counselling, peer support, IPS worker, and care co-ordinator are available for face to face meetings at the Hub.

Youth who need space to do homework or just get out and relax are encouraged to text or call to connect with someone at the Hub. Exam prep drop-in will be offered after school on Jan. 17 and 19. Check out our calendar on Instagram @Halcountyouthhub to keep up to date on all of our drop-in activities and mobile share and care.

## Welcome new staff

Point in Time welcomes to the team Randi Cooper, driver for Point in Time and the Youth Wellness Hub; Kalyna Thurlbeck, child, youth, and family therapist; and Jenn McGovern, family support worker.

## Indigenous peer navigator

Ashley Wilson is the Indigenous peer navigator at Point in Time. She provides both one on one peer support and community outreach to Indigenous youth and/or their families in the community. Ashley is also available to provide peer support to fellow colleagues in their roles who may also be supporting clients who identify as indigenous. Ashley will be offering land based teachings as well as textile arts focusing on the medicine wheel framework in the New Year at the Youth Hub. You can reach her at 705-854-1649.

## Chamber Gala Awards

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub recently won Not-for-Profit of the Year along with Canoe FM at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber Gala! Point in Time also won the Haliburton County Warden's award. Congratulations to our dedicated staff and board members, and thank you to the Chamber and community for the nomination and awards. Thank you for the holiday donations.

Staff and board members at Point in Time sincerely thank community members and agency partners that helped contribute to creating lasting memories for many families in our area this past holiday season. Your generous donations are always appreciated!

*Submitted by Point in Time*

## Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass Sale

### Sale ends January 31st

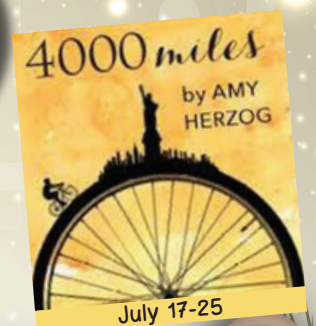
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Grease is the word

Ella Stamp, as Sandy, and Owen Nicholls, as Danny, sing *You're The One That I Want* at the end of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's final production of *Grease* on Thursday, Jan. 19 put on by Grade 11 and 12 students. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Cast members finish the Hand Jive.



Walker Nesbitt gets lifted up as he plays Frankie Avalon during the Beauty School Dropout scene of *Grease*.



Jack Walker, playing Roger, and Ciara Wilson, playing Jan, sing *Mooning*.



Joardan Kovacs, as Doody, sings *Those Magic Changes* during HHSS' final performance of *Grease*.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	3	4	7	5	2	6	8	9
6	9	2	4	8	1	5	7	3
5	8	7	9	3	6	4	1	2
2	1	3	8	6	7	9	5	4
9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
4	6	5	1	2	9	7	3	8
7	4	6	3	1	8	2	9	5
8	2	1	6	9	5	3	4	7
3	5	9	2	7	4	8	6	1



# Harness dog sports in the Highlands

by KAREN KOEHLER  
Special to the Times

All my life I wanted a dog, but it was not until I settled here in the Haliburton Highlands, in 2004, that it all came together. My husband and I had both grown up near big cities, Montreal and Toronto, and had both cottaged in this area all our lives. We both love being in nature, and appreciate the clean air and quieter pace of this area. We enjoy the sense of community here, and both got involved in our own ways. We chose our beautiful house by a lake and shortly after we adopted Robbie from a dog sled tour company.

Robbie was a 10 year old border collie/husky mix that still wanted to go on adventures. I had heard of skijoring where a dog pulls you on skis, but thought that he and I were inventing bikejoring. The first time we tried it I ended up splattered on the road, as the result of what appeared to be an abrupt poo stop. I learned my dog had given me lots of warning, I just had not paid attention to the signs! This dog, Robbie, and I explored all over the Haliburton Highlands attached together moving at his speed! We met several of our neighbours when we were out and about together. We would bikejor and skijor on friend's farm properties, skijor the lakes in the winter, and bikejor on quiet backroads. As our bond grew, I remember looking into his beautiful blue eyes, several times a day, and begging him to live long. I could not bear the thought of losing him. He truly had become an extension of my soul, and for hours in the outdoors he was an extension of my physical being.

I had not thought about the fact that people compete in harness dog sports, but in 2004



Karen Koehler and her dog, Mighty, showcase the sport of skijoring. /Photo by Floriane Vallery

someone mentioned to me that I could compete in the local dog sled race that had a skijoring class. This was the Haliburton Dog Sled Derby. I had never raced, but they said it didn't matter. Two years later I went to a race in Cannington. The races were so friendly I became absolutely hooked. Soon I was racing in the other seasons too, doing bikejoring and Canicross. My favourite thing is spending hours in nature with the dogs, training them and me, and races are just nice to have as a target for our training. Remarkably during COVID I appreciated having even more time to be out with the dogs on our home trails, friends' farms and the lakes when they were nice for skijoring.

Harness dog sports are truly my favourite way to bond with my dogs. It really keeps you sharp, and in the moment, you are exploring the world and increasing your fitness with your dog connected to you, moving at their speed. It is hard not to finish the activity without a runner's high for you and the dog! Now, almost 20 years later I have four

dogs. If I simply pick up one collar, all four of my dogs (German Short Hair/Greyhound mixes) come running in excitement knowing we are going outside to exercise together at their speed!

People can do harness dog sports with most pet dogs. Most people notice when they get a puppy, it naturally loves to pull. I have started doing very light training with my dogs when they are six months and a gradual build from there. However, every breed, and dog for that matter, is different, so the best thing is to check with the dog's vet. I have seen very small breeds do these sports as all they need to do is hold the line out and they look super cool. Then their owner and them just need to match their pace. Typically, most people do these sports with dogs 30 pounds or more. You can even do these sports with dogs that are not super keen on pulling if they can move with their person in a predictable manner. I had one dog, Tease, who when she was alone would stay beside me during bikejor. She was still attached to the line. She

could also run very well out in front if her dog friend, Finney was at her side. These two competed with me at my first IFSS World Championships for skijoring in Norway.

I began teaching harness dog sports here in the Highlands in 2017 when Yours Outdoors asked me if I would be interested. It was the same year I had managed to bring the IFSS World Championships to Haliburton Forest. It felt very second nature to take these lessons on, as I had been involved in many teaching endeavors. I was teaching horseback riding to youngsters when I was in high school. Following university, I branched out into teaching all kinds of outdoor activities, (kayaking, canoeing, cross-country skiing) at outdoor centres and summer camps. Later I taught in the Elementary School System for many of years. I was easily able to pull my skills forward. Recently, I became a health and life coach which has added yet another set of skills that easily applies to the lessons.

The key is meeting the clients, dog and person, where they are in their connection with each other, and athletic ability in the harness dog activity (bikejor, canicross, skijoring, kicksledding, or scootering), and being able to break things down into small easy steps.

My beloved Robbie passed at 16 years old. I cried and cried. It was the first death that hit me in a way I cannot describe. I was so lost. I remember crying to someone, that I did not know where he was. I have come to know that he is always with me and in many races and training sessions I call him to help lead my dog or dogs down the trail.

Karen Koehler teaches harness dog sport lessons for Yours Outdoors/Haliburton Forest and is a certified Health and Life Coach. She can be reached at coachkaren-k9x4@gmail.com.



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### In Loving Memory of Thomasina "Ina" Hobbs

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, January 21, 2023, in her 99th year.

Beloved wife of the late John. Dear mother of Fred (deceased) and his wife Maryanne of BC, Philip and his wife Bonnie of Bancroft, Jackie and her husband Lonnie of Minden. Loving grandma of Chris (Darlene), Mandy, Mark (Aimee), Shaun (Lisa), Jaime (Gavin) and great grandma of Allison, Emily, Hudson, Lucas, Sophia, Olivia, Carson, Parker and Kylie. Predeceased by her one brother and two sisters. It was Ina's wish for cremation and a private family celebration of her life at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation-Hyland Crest Residents Council (HHHSF-Hyland Crest Residents Council) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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# The Times

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Monday, January 9, 1989

## Amanda's ready to race dogs

Eleven-year-old Amanda Stephenson has never driven a team of sled dogs, but this year she will be one of the favourites to win the Kid-and-Mutt race during the Minden Sled Dog Derby.

Amanda's artistic talents have won her first place in the derby poster contest and her prize will be an inside look at the world of sled-dog racing with the guidance of one of the best mushers on the planet.

Terri Killam of Northboro, Massachusetts will be spending an hour with Amanda this Saturday, pointing out some of the secrets to her own racing success. Killam won the eight-dog class in Minden last year and placed second in the four-dog class. Her championship team pulled her to the Gold Medal in the eight-dog class in 1988, making her the best eight-dog racer in the world.

Amanda's poster was judged against dozens of others entered by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Her rendering of a team of

(more on page 3)



Amanda Stephenson proudly displays her Minden Sled Dog Derby poster which was selected by judges as the best over-all. The students of Archie Stouffer Elementary School lent their artistic talents to help promote the race. Their work will be on display in area businesses from now until the derby.

## Scott reminded of promised water solution

A group of Haliburton County residents has sent out a reminder to Victoria-Haliburton MP Bill Scott in hopes of keeping the issue of lake levels up front in the new year.

More than 30 names were attached to a letter to Scott, reminding him of his election campaign promise to introduce a Private Member's Bill in the House in an attempt to get his colleagues to recognize the problem.

"During the past several years, the drastic change in water levels of the lakes in Haliburton County has been an increasing concern and frustration for many Haliburton residents," the letter begins. It was addressed to Scott and copies were sent to the Environment Minister, the Haliburton County Warden, Dysart Township Reeve and the Chairman of the water levels advisory committee.

Faced with convincing commitment to the resolution of this situation from his opponents in the November federal election, Scott came out with an action plan of his own. He promised that, if necessary, he would draft a

Private Member's Bill.

He also had then-environment minister Tom McMillan make an appearance in the riding during the campaign and arranged for a meeting with Harry Davis, chairman of the water levels advisory committee. McMillan, however, was defeated in the election, nullifying the progress made during this meeting.

The problem of fluctuating water levels in Haliburton's lakes is caused by the Trent-Severn Waterway, which is a branch of the federal environment ministry. The waterway uses Haliburton lakes as its reservoir and causes the levels to fluctuate by as much as 10 feet.

The droughts experienced during the past two summers drew increased attention to the problem. Lake levels dropped to new record lows, and along with the lakes, the water table for the entire county dropped. Hundreds of people were left with dry wells as a result.

The letter to Scott asks only that he respond to this situation early in the new year.

## Hospital delays are costly

Anticipating that construction costs for the planned addition to the Haliburton Hospital will increase because of delays in the construction start-up, the hospital board has notified county council that it will be seeking more of a contribution to the building fund.

The plans for an addition to house 18 long-term care beds at the hospital were put on hold by the Ministry of Health because an air conditioning system was not incorporated in the plans. The

ministry requires all facilities serving long-term patients to be air conditioned.

Leo Doiron, Executive Director of the St. Joseph's General Hospital, recently wrote to Haliburton County Council to provide an update on the activities and provide a forewarning that the longer project is delayed, the more it will cost.

Doiron told council that the hospital board had hoped construction would

(more on page 3)

## Unploughing the roads

At this time of year, roads crews are usually hard at work ploughing the snow off the roads. However, this Friday night in Minden, the municipal roads department will be doing the opposite.

At 6 p.m. Friday, a section of Minden's Main Street between Newcastle and South Water Streets will be closed to traffic in order that a smooth layer of snow can be set down.

This is part of the preparations for the fifth running of the Minden Sled Dog Derby. The start and finish line for the two days of racing is right on the Main Street and snow has to be set down to provide a smooth trail for the dogs and sleds. In addition, berms will be built of snow to form the chute.

About 100 dog teams and thousands of spectators are expected to be in the village this Saturday and Sunday for the world's largest

limited-class sled-dog race. As usual the races will be starting at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Spectators are invited to line the chute on Main Street where the teams start out and finish up.

This year teams will be competing for a total purse of \$20,000, provided by the derby's main sponsor, Martin Pet Foods of Elmira. The top 15 finishers in each of the eight-dog and four-dog classes will share in this money.

Area residents are reminded that traffic over the bridge will be limited to one lane while races are underway. Use of the Bobcaygeon Road, Scotch Line and Highway 35 are suggested to avoid congestion at that point.

Pet owners are also reminded to leave their animals at home. Dogs or cats along the trail can distract a racing team, causing injury to the dogs, driver and spectators.

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